Application Serial No. 10/049,948 Amendment dated July 26, 2004 Reply to Office Action dated March 26, 2004

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A device for continuously melting and refining inorganic compounds, especially glasses and glass ceramics. The device comprises a melting crucible and a refining crucible wherein an induction coil is disposed around the refining crucible and serves to couple high frequency energy into the content of the crucible. A connection line conveys the melt from the melting crucible into the refining crucible and the connection line exits the melting crucible in the bottom zone thereof and enters the refining crucible in the bottom zone thereof. A leak-proof glass seal is arranged at the connecting point of the connecting line in the refining crucible, wherein the seal is electrically shunted to ground potential.